

Addendum to December 2010 *Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Guidelines* for the Department of Water Resources' California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program

October 2, 2014

Use of public supply wells for CASGEM groundwater elevation data collection.

The December 2010 *Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Guidelines* ("Guidelines") discusses the types of wells permissible for groundwater elevation monitoring and reporting under the CASGEM Program. In the Guidelines, public supply wells (PSWs) were deemed not permissible for use in the CASGEM Program due to confidentiality requirements the California Department of Public Health has with respect to disclosing the locations of PSWs (page 8 of Guidelines).

The inability to utilize PSWs for groundwater elevation monitoring significantly restricts the options in some areas of the State where the number of possible wells suitable for the CASGEM Program is limited.

Effective July 1, 2014, the Drinking Water Program was moved to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) from the Department of Public Health. In August 2014, DWR discussed the policy of non-disclosure for public supply well locations with the SWRCB Drinking Water Program (DWP). The SWRCB DWP indicated that it maintains the policy of non-disclosure for PSWs, but that a Public Water System may disclose the location of its PSWs, along with the total depths and screened intervals. Consequently, DWR may now accept PSWs as CASGEM monitoring wells, as long as the Public Water System owning the wells gives the CASGEM Monitoring Entity permission to monitor them and disclose the well location and construction information.

It should be noted that not every PSW is suitable or desirable for monitoring groundwater elevations as part of the CASGEM Program. Current and potential CASGEM Monitoring Entities should consult with their regional DWR staff before adding PSWs to their CASGEM monitoring networks. In some instances, using PSWs for monitoring might be seen as the only option, in the absence of more suitable dedicated monitoring wells or more limited production wells, to close data gaps with the monitoring area. Monitoring Entities should pursue inclusion of those other well types before consideration of the inclusion of PSWs. In any case, use of PSWs as CASGEM monitoring wells should follow the other elements of the 2010 Guidelines with respect to using production wells. This includes the recommendations that CASGEM wells not be screened in multiple aquifers, and that Monitoring Entities should wait until pumping drawdown has recovered in production wells before collecting groundwater elevation measurements.

Permission of the well owner to monitor their well is a requirement for every CASGEM well. It is important to ensure that permission to release the well construction information from PSWs that are used as CASGEM wells has been given by the Public Water System and not the SWRCB DWP. DWR requires a Monitoring Entity that intends to use PSWs as CASGEM wells obtain written permission to do so from the Public Water System manager. The letter should specifically state that the Public Water System gives the Monitoring Entity permission to monitor the PSWs for the CASGEM Program, and release the well construction information and monitoring data through the CASGEM Online System.